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PATENT  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : William FORD et al.  
U.S. Serial No. : 09/988,978  
Title of Invention : **PROCESS FOR IMMOBILIZATION OF NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ON A SUBSTRATE**  
Filed : November 19, 2001  
Examiner: : Jeffrey Siew  
Group Art Unit : 1637  
Confirmation No. : 9531

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**SUBMISSION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.114**

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Sir:

This is submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114 with the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith. Further, this paper is supplemental to the April 30, 2003 Amendment and responsive to both the May 21, 2003 Advisory Action and to the January 31,

2003 Final Office Action. A two-month extension of time is respectfully requested. Any fee occasioned by this paper, and not accounted for by the enclosed check, may be charged, or overpayment credited, to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.